

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is presented to place the application in proper form for examination and to eliminate multiple dependency from the present claims. No new matter has been added. Early examination and favorable consideration of the above-identified application is earnestly solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

In the Specification:

Page 1, the paragraph from lines 4 to 9, has been amended as follows:

The invention relates to a method [according to the introduction of Claim 1] and apparatus for spreading a treating agent, such as surface size, water or a coating mix, as an unsupported jet, to alter the properties of a web, onto the surface of the web to be treated or onto a surface that transfers the treating agent onto the surface of the web. The invention can also be applied to treating plate-like products instead of roll coaters or curtain coaters, for example.

In the Claims:

6. A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that, [for example, for cleaning,] the nozzle plate (6) is moved in the transversal direction to the direction of movement of the moving surface, so that part of the length of the nozzle plate (6) can be moved outside the width of the area to be treated of the moving surface.

7. A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that steam is blasted against at least the nozzle plate (6) to keep the plate (6) clean.

8. A method according to [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, characterized in that a needle-shaped water jet (15) is directed at the openings (10) of the nozzle plate (6) to clean the openings (10).

9. A method according to [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, characterized in that an ultrasound is directed at the nozzle plate (6) to clean the plate.

10. A method according to claim 1 [According to any of the preceding claims], characterized in that the amount of treating agent fed onto the web is measured on the basis of the volume flow measurement of the treating agent.

13. An arrangement according to claim 11 [or 12], characterized in a screen plate (6), the length of which is greater than the width of the area of the moving surface that is to be treated, and members (11) to move the screen plate (6) at least partly outside the width of the area to be treated[, for example, for cleaning].

14. An arrangement according to claim 11, [12 or 13,] characterized in at least one steam nozzle (13) for blowing steam at least towards the nozzle plate (6).

15. An arrangement according to claim 11, [12 or 13,] characterized in at least one needle-shaped water jet, which can be directed at the openings (10) of the nozzle plate (6).